

FALL
2002
VOLUME 1
ISSUE 1

BITE BACK

INSIDE: JOHN CURTIN - ALF & HUNT RETRIBUTION SQUAD VOLUNTEER, BREAKING INTO HLS,
REMEMBERING BARRY HORNE, PRISONER SUPPORT 101, DIARY OF ACTIONS, PRISONER UPDATES



one of 71 beagles liberated from Interfauna beagle breeder, uk

bite back.

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Bite Back is a volunteer organization and magazine dedicated to the advocacy of those caught, or currently in the underground for animal liberation and the nonviolent tactics they employ. Bite Back strives to create a culture of support for the Animal Liberation Front and direct action by means of prisoner support, news reporting, and the production of inspirational stories, photos, and ALF support merchandise.

Formed in 2002 to feed an animal rights movement hungry for ALF advocacy, Bite Back is all volunteer, grassroots organized, and free to everyone.

editorial

volume 1 issue 1 fall 2002

Welcome to the first issue of Bite Back - a magazine and support organization that solely exists to promote the cause of, and offer legal and movement assistance to those on the frontlines of the direct action struggle for animal liberation. The Animal Liberation Front and other animal rights activists that engage in direct attacks on industries of animal exploitation have been at the cutting edge of this struggle for the last twenty five years, with their undying passion for justice, determination to win, and cleverness of approach. This magazine and support structure offers a free and collaborative voice to use their efforts to educate the masses, excite our movement, and ignite this most important of revolutions.

Thanks to the tireless and continuous efforts of large national groups (the various "acronym-ed" groups like PeTA, LCA, and PCRM) the animal rights message is being heard. The arguments are being made and the debates are easily won. We cannot however, in good conscience, stop at this point and wait for the animal abusers to see compassion over their own profits and for the, by and large, apathetic public to concern itself with any issue beyond what happened on last week's "Survivor". To see movement we must take bigger strides and make bigger actions. Our friends in the ALF are helping to lead the charge - without apologies for the broken laws and broken windows and without fear for their own possible repercussions.

Recognizing these important contributions from unknown soldiers needs vociferous and colorful support now more than ever. With McCarthyism and Gestapo-like public polices turning their attention on anyone with a political belief or who is courageous enough to take action, a show of resistance and solidarity must be taken. The Animal Liberation Front, the "Robin Hoods" of the movement, are a testimony to bravery and selflessness. Showing support for this necessary ingredient in the recipe

*"If they haven't got
prisoners, we have
stopped fighting. If
our prisoners are
forgotten about, they
have beaten us."*


*-Keith Mann,
A.L.F. activist and
former prisoner.*

for animal liberation is the responsibility of each and every one of us.

Just as campaigns like that of SHAC are teaching us that animal abuse is not just an abstract concept - but rather can be attributed to a personal name and a face - animal liberationists are only people too. When unfortunately caught and stripped of their balaclavas we see our friends, family members, and kind-faced strangers who need the rest of us, reading magazines like this, to step up to the plate and take our turn swinging away at vivisection, fur, hunting, circuses, the meat trade, etc. etc. etc. Doing nothing is not an option.

As we learn from history the victories of other social movements have come from protest activity that extended well beyond the bullhorn and the ballot box. Successful social movements have seen countless incarcerations, injuries, and deaths. The animal rights movement is not and cannot be viewed any differently. This magazine and its organization is a call to action to support those who are already on the battlefields and to prepare us for more, for however many months, years, and decades this fight for animal rights will take. Use this magazine and this organization as a resource and as a motivator to pick up that pen, that placard, that pair of wire cutters or a molotov cocktail and to take to the night, the streets, or the editorial pages and demonstrate that our fight comes in many different forms. But we all come together - unified, supportive, and undeterred from achieving animal liberation.

We hope you enjoy this premier (and sure to be a timeless) issue and join us for another.

 **BITE BACK**
editors

PRISONER SUPPORT 101

Letters.

Writing letters is one of the most important things you can do for prisoner support. Letters serve as a lifeline to the outside world for those who have had their freedom stripped from them. Letters can also provide a mutual source of inspiration as you get the benefit of hearing stories from and becoming acquainted with a true hero, and the prisoner gets to hear your stories of current animal rights news and events.

When writing letters ask the prisoner what they are allowed to receive and then help fill any wish list they may have. This could include books, magazines, newspapers, cassettes, pictures, or items of clothing. It is our job on the outside to make sure they are as comfortable as possible. Always ask first though - as different prisons have different guidelines. Remember activist security precautions. Be secure for yourself and for the prisoner and NEVER ask questions about pending investigations / charges they have against them and don't ever tell them about anything illegal you may have done or are planning. Assume all mail is read by the screws, the police, the FBI, and any other law enforcement agency. Even if you have the worst penmanship in the world - you can still write letters to prisoners. You either can type one out OR participate in the ALF Supporter's Group's "Email to Prisoners" project. Every week the ALF SG prints out and sends all the emails its receives for various prisoners. This saves you time and money - and the job still gets done.

Donations/ Monetary support.

Being charged for direct action "crimes" or facing state repression can get expensive. The American system of "Justice" does not depend whether a person is guilty or innocent - but rather how much money they have. It is the responsibility of all of us supporters to make sure that the defendants in these cases have the best defense possible. If you are called on to donate or help fundraise for a legal defense fund - please dig deep and work hard!

Organizations exist whose sole purpose is to help support prisoners. The Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group is the main organization working to promote prisoner advocacy by tracking those in detention, being kept aware of all legal situations, generating letters, helping with legal costs, and contributing money towards the families who have hefty phone bills and travel costs to talk with their parents, children, or siblings.

Some prisons (remember to ask first) allow you to contribute to the inmate's prison account, which allows them money to buy items from

Recommended Reading:
Free the Animals by Ingrid Newkirk
Memories of Freedom
Animal Liberation Primer
Interview with ALF Activists
Keep Fighting: Three interviews with
Britain's ALF Press Officers

Visit these web sites for information:
www.AnimalLiberation.net
www.SpiritOfFreedom.org.uk
www.shacUSA.net

Deadlines: Every day do something to support POWs and the animal rights cause, whether that means writing a letter, sending a donation, wearing a t-shirt, or brick-bating a fur store window.

You aren't being graded for this - but it is one of the most important courses you will have ever taken as countless prisoners and POWs are counting on you.

the commissary such as stamps, stationary, tea, peanuts, and toiletries.

Create a culture of direct action support.

Write letters to the editor, Op Ed pieces, or create press stories to generate interest for the ALF and those animals they are trying to save.

Sport t-shirts, buttons, patches, stickers, posters, etc to display loudly and colorfully your support of direct action and those who engage in it.

Organize benefit concerts, vegan bake sales, or events that draw attention to the direct action cause for animal rights that involve and excite a variety of people, as well as raise money for the prison support work.

Prisoners are people and people have to eat. Often prisons do not think they are equipped to handle an inmate that won't eat dead animals, or may just not want to. All of us on the outside need to coordinate to protect those on the inside. Through facilitating correspondence with the prison and dieticians, phone calls, letters, pressure from the press, and lawsuits, most vegan prisoners have been given diets suited to their needs.

Vegan food campaigns.

Continue to fight!

Solidarity actions lift the spirits of those imprisoned most. Many prisoners have commented that seeing a continuous barrage of ALF attacks while they are in prison (some of which were dedicated to them) has made them feel more free than anything else ever

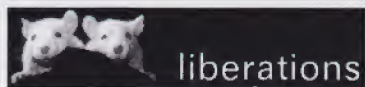
could.

Solidarity actions also demonstrate to our opponents and the police that prison will never be a deterrent for our fight for animal liberation, and for each person that gets caught, two of us will step in to take their place.



DIARY OF ACTIONS

june - september 2002



liberations

JUNE

6th, Australia: Activists set free hundreds of kangaroos from the Puckapunyal Army Base, in Northern Victoria. The kangaroos were to have been killed as part of a major cull on the base, which is home to more than 80,000 roos. Animal welfare activists and the RSPCA had criticized the cull.

21st, New Zealand: ALF cut through a security fence to gain access at Auckland Zoo. Once inside they "emptied two cans of spray paint on a range of cages, signs and walls. Slogans included 'ZOOS KILL', 'THIS IS A CAGE' and 'ALF MEANS FREEDOM FOR ANIMALS' The activists escaped, taking with them a rabbit and four mice, two of whom were pregnant.

26th, New Zealand: Six hens were taken from a battery farm according to the animal rights group SAFE (Save Animals From Exploitation).

29th, Germany: 3 hens liberated from a battery farm by the group Maqi from a farm in southwest Germany.

JULY

3rd, Netherlands: The DBF liberated 23 chickens from a battery farm in the town of Vierhouten.

9th, Sweden: ALF activists took all 189 rabbits from Malte Peterson's rabbit farm in Laholm. All the rabbits have since been re-homed. Many of the rabbits had serious eyes inflammations and injuries on their backs.

11th, Sweden: Activists planted two incendiary devices at a rabbit farm

in Laholm, which was burned to the ground. All 189 rabbits had been removed from the farm by activists in a raid two days earlier.

12th, New Zealand: The ALF took six battery hens from the Eggs R Us factory egg farm in Henderson Valley, Auckland. Video footage of the farm was shot, showing the horrendous conditions that the hens endure, which was sent to various media.

14th, Germany: Activists from the Maqi group took 8 hens and 2 baby geese from a battery farm.

VICTORY

LIBERATED RABBITS



July 9th, 2002 - Laholm, Sweden: 189 rabbits were released from Malte Pettersons rabbit farm in Laholm by the ALF. Two days later, the farm was burned down by the Animal Rights Militia.

22nd, Finland: About 3,000 mink were released from a fur farm in Maalahti, western Finland, which was widely reported on all tv news. The action was later claimed by the ALF.

26th, Netherlands: 9,000 mink were released from a farm in the village of Venhorst. The DBF cell issued a press release saying; "All cages open! Breeding cards taken. Equipment smashed."

AUGUST

4th, Sweden: The Swedish ALF, DBF, raided Mats Bergman's chinchilla farm in Kvanum. All 37 chinchillas on the farm at the time were rescued and all cages destroyed.

10th, Sweden: Around 1,000 minks

were released from a mink farm in Umgransele, Northern Sweden. The same farm was raided in march this year by the Wild Minks.

11th, UK: About 600 baby partridges and pheasants were set loose from a farm in Broxted, Essex. A hand-written note was left: "Your cruelty cannot go on this year. You must stop the slaughter. You must let the birds live in harmony away from you lot."

13th, Sweden: DBF carried out a raid on Jonas Gewers chinchilla farm in Vallentuna, just outside Stockholm,

where all 29 chinchillas were liberated and taken to new homes. In one week the DBF has emptied 2 of Sweden's 7 remaining chinchilla farms. Cages were also destroyed and slogans sprayed. All the liberated chinchillas are doing extremely well are enjoying the taste of freedom.

18th, USA: ALF activists liberated 2,000-3,000 mink from the Misty Moonlight Mink Ranch in Waverly, Iowa, owned by Nick Demuth. Two sides of the perimeter fence were cut away and five sheds emptied. No cage was left unopened. This marks the 6th raided fur farm in Iowa; of these, 3 have closed forever.

21st, Germany: 25 hens and 2 geese liberated from a battery farm.

SEPTEMBER

1st, Denmark: Friday night 3,000 mink were released from a mink farm in Denmark, close to the German border.

1st, Ireland: Animal Liberation Front successfully entered the game holding pens within Castlemorris Woods in County Kilkenny, Ireland, and took nine pheasants to be released to a safe location. A further amount of pheasants were freed from the enclosure via a large hole cut in the wire fencing. The initials ALF were spray-painted nearby.

11th, Germany: The group "Projekt befreite Tiere" (Project liberated animals) claims responsibility for having liberated 18 hens from a chicken farm during the last week.

14th, Netherlands: In the night of 13-14 September the DBF opened 300 cages on a minkfarm in Harfsen. At least 900 minks escaped.

17th, Netherlands: Activists released 6,000 of the 30,000 animals from cages at a fur farm in Bunschoten. They could not open the outside gates, and had to leave, hoping the animals would escape via a pile of sand by the fence. Press reports later stated that hundreds of mink were still free in the area.

22nd, Sweden: A mink farm in Torhamn was attacked by activists. Windows were smashed on farm buildings, slogans were sprayed and other damage done to a freezing unit, were mink food and mink skins were kept, according to the media. The farmer had been away on a lunch break when the activists hit. The same farm was raided in March when all 200 breeding animals were released.

23rd, Sweden: Umea: A small rabbit is rescued from bad conditions from exotic pet shop. She now lives her life

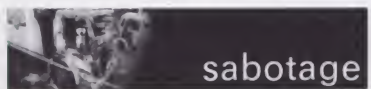




in a happy enviroment.

30th, UK: Lambs destined for live exports to the continent rescued by activists.

29th, Finland: Nearly all of the 1,200 mink were liberated from a mink and fox farm in Teuva, Southern Finland. 800 foxes were dyed with red henna.



sabotage

JUNE

13th, Netherlands: Stink bombs thrown into Marsh Insurance head office in Rotterdam.

16th, UK: Several activists arrived at an address in Wall and an address in Sutton Coldfield, and placed garden hoses into letter boxes, flooding the properties. Both addresses are connected with Newchurch Guinea Pig Breeders.

17th, Sweden: Chinchilla fur farmer Henry Yrnevik has had his car and house repainted 4 times since December, and now hides his car, but the ALF found it and punctured all tires, smashed all windows, glued the locks and painted it.

26th, Netherlands: Activists sabotaged and spray-painted the cash machines of the ABN AMRO at different places in the Netherlands. The Dutch ALF say they attacked the banks because ABN AMRO is the official banker for the controversial primate vivisection lab, BPRC.

29th, Norway: Dyrenes

Frigjøringsfront (DFF, or Norweigan ALF) activists raided a government-funded research fur farm. They took away research material, address books and computer hard drives before smashing the computers and other equipment, and redecorating each room with red paint. All the rooms in one building were flooded by wreck-

ing the water pipes. The researchers claimed later that much research has been totally ruined and damage was estimated at hundreds of thousands of dollars.

JULY

20th, Spain: FLA, (Frente de Liberacion Animal) released a communique reporting a night raid at a hunting ranch in Salamanca, Midwest Spain. A hole was cut in the fence that surrounded the ranch, which held hostage hundreds of our kidnapped sisters, and we painted a sign which read: "HUNTERS ASSASSINS - F.L.A."

29th, Netherlands: The Dutch ALF visited the institute Spelderholt, a fur trade research station at Beekbergen. After finding three sheds with foxes in cages, they removed a large section of fence, and took away breeding cards. A loud alarm then sounded, and the activists fled without knowing the results of their actions.

31st, USA: ALF causes massive damage by destroying 4 greens and 4 holes at the exclusive Meadowbrook Golf Club shortly before a prestigious PGA golf tournament was due to be held there. A prominent member of the club, Frank Tasco, is also the main director of Marsh Insurance, and was partly and proudly responsible for bringing the tournament to the club. Damages from this action are put at hundreds of thousands of dollars, with the damage to the golf course, the disruption to the PGA event and to the club itself.

Late July Spain: Activists destroy a refrigerated meat lorry in Alicante using incendiary devices.

AUGUST

4th, Netherlands: The Dierenbevrijdingsfront (DBF) trashed hundreds of circus posters of the Russian State circus in Groningen.

6th, UK: Due to Marsh Inc acting as insurance broker to HLS, ALF activists visited their Southampton office

late at night, armed with super glue and bricks. Windows were put through and locks glued.

28th, Austria: During a conference of the society for artificial organs in Vienna that dealt with vivisection, the ALF paid a visit to one of the organizers, Udo Losert, a vivisector himself,

VICTORY

PAINT ATTACK

February 3, 2002 -
The president of HLS's 2nd largest shareholder, Quilcap, is targeted at home by hundreds of protestors. Paint is thrown all over the building and windows smashed. Quilcap abandons HLS and sells its shares soon after.

and painted his BMW car, his house, door and garden door with paint and the slogan 'animal murderer'. The garden door was locked with a padlock.

30th, USA: ALF visited the home of Rodney Armstead MD in Los Angeles and took out two of his front windows. Rodney works for "Medical Diagnostic Management, Inc.", which has ties with HLS.

30th, USA: In Torrance, California, a company with ties to HLS was attacked by activists wielding glue, paint, and marbles. The CBC offices had their locks glued and windows and walls painted, and a window was broken. "HLS Scum" was sprayed.

30th, USA: In Farmers Branch, Texas, Dean Rodwell's driveway and white van were spattered with blood-red paint. Dean is a senior scientist at HLS.

31st, France: A bomb made with a gas bottle exploded at an arena where the medieval town of Carcassonne was due to stage its first bullfight in 50 years. Police blamed animal rights activists. The following day 200 people protested against the event with the arena surrounded by police. The bomb caused no injuries. At the arena the following day, 6 young bulls were killed in the carnage.

5th, Netherlands: A house in Utrecht of vivisector Bert 't Hart, from primate lab BPRC, is visited by activists, windows smashed. Hart's home and vehicle were wrecked by activists in April too.

20th, USA: ALF paid a visit to the home of Frank Tasco, honorary director to Marsh, having monitored his protection and home beforehand. While the armed guards were asleep, the plush house was plastered with anti-HLS and ALF slogans. The words "killer" and "murderer leave town" could be seen all the way across the harbour.

SEPTEMBER

21st Netherlands: Activists attacked the house of Dhr. R. Bontrop in Voorschoten, the director of the BPRC. Around 3:00 AM they smashed two windows of the living room and a huge window at the side of the house. Two locks of his front door and those of his two cars were glued.

FOR CURRENT DIRECT ACTION UPDATES, VISIT:

WWW.
ArkangelWeb
.org

WWW.
NoCompromise
.org



FROM BEHIND THE BARS

LETTERS FROM PRISONERS



Benjamin Persky
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GRVC
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11370

*Awaiting trial for
allegedly smashing
windows at various
home demos against
HLS supporters*

Recently I came across a quote from German activist Helmut Kaplan, who wrote "Our grandchildren will ask us one day: Where were you during the Holocaust of the animals? What did you do against these horrifying crimes? We won't be able to offer the same excuse for the second time - that we didn't know."

We are all well informed as to the "horrifying crime" of vivisection. Indeed, if there is a particular laboratory more apt to be analogous to a concentration camp, then it is Huntingdon Life Sciences, where over nine million animals have suffered and died in the name of corporate greed. The immediacy of this situation, one in which animals suffer every minute HLS is open, undoubtedly calls for direct action.

There have been hundreds of life-saving acts of sabotage and liberation against HLS and its supporters, yet the somewhat limited quantity suggests a fear of the potential consequences of direct action, particularly the fear of incarceration.

I am being held at Rikers Island Detention Center in New York on charges relating to property destruction, which allegedly occurred during three demonstra-

tions against supporters of HLS. I have been here over three months, and expect to be sentenced, possibly along with some of my codefendants, to up to a year.

The most salient aspect of my incarceration has been its brevity. Life here is boring, and occasionally stressful, most importantly though, temporary. Since being kidnapped by the FBI, I have spent most of my days reading, writing letters, and relaxing. I'm doing well, and staying in good health. The activist community has been incredibly supportive, especially SHAC and ACTUP San Francisco, to whom I offer my heartfelt thanks. As cliché as it may be, my temporary incarceration pales in comparison to the life sentences imposed on laboratory animals, and should be weighed based on this rationale comparison.

It is imperative for the sake of the animals suffering right now that those who understand the importance of direct action follow through with their convictions, and those who support direct action continue to do so, even in the face of increasing repression.

Kaplan's metaphoric "grandchildren" may never exist to call us to answer for our apathy or action amidst the inconceivable suffering which occurs daily at HLS. As such we have only our knowledge of this suffering to remind us of our responsibility, and only our own commitment to motivate us to action.

I am impressed and inspired by the continuing actions of animal liberationists as they wage war against HLS, and I look forward to the day when I am able to join in the struggle again - with even more anger and determination than before. HLS is closed, if you want it.

Benjamin Persky



In spite of federal funding now going to new domestic terrorism task forces, and despite Matt's and my arrest and conviction, the federal government is still at a dead end that it can't seem to get past in the fight to stop the ever-growing and ever-accelerating underground earth and animal liberation movement.

Strangely, our arrest and conviction was labeled by the federal government as a victory, a description that does not fit as well as others that I could think of. Especially since our arrest occurred during a time period here in the U.S. in which A.L.F. activity was at an unfortunate stand still. So, instead of our capture solving some puzzling case of direct action in defense of the earth and her animal nations, state and federal agencies formulated a case that would be easier for them to work with, seeing that at that time all that they really had was some rather simple incendiary devices, and our criminal records related to political activism.

Understanding that accepting responsibility decreases the amount of years we might be facing, we in solidarity agreed to reveal that those incendiary

devices were being prepared for use in an act of sabotage that would hopefully inflict substantial damage to the dairy packaging and distribution facility that was our target. All our arrest and conviction seemed to do was ignite further successful acts. It was only months after our arrests that a wave of major A.L.F. and E.L.F. activity in the U.S. began and only continued to grow, undeterred by Matt's and my situation, undeterred by the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and undeterred by the increased attention the F.B.I. and other government agencies have been giving this growing underground movement.

Maybe Matt and I have been made an example of for others to learn from, but if this is all they can do to us, what is stopping any and all individuals with an earth and animal consciousness to take risks? What is any type of temporary incarceration, no matter how long or short, compared to the lifelong incarceration the earth and her animal nations will endure if we never intervene?

The short term effects of these waves of activity are quite apparent and plain to see, but it is the supportive voices that can carry the short term effects into the long term on a path toward a wilder world. Support for successful actions, as well as for the unsuccessful actions that leave prisoners in need of support, is key to creating an overall awareness of this growing underground movement and why it exists.

The support I've received during the past twenty two months I've been in federal custody, and especially the past eight months that I've spent in this institution, has been absolutely overwhelmingly uplifting, really just wonderful. The support I've received has come from

as far away as Brazil and Tokyo, signatures owned by anarchists and reformists alike, people I've never met before and those that remembered holding a picket sign, firm and solid by my side some time ago.

The effectiveness of these actions can only go as far as the voice that supports them is willing to go. We need to reach out to the general public to build a base for support, to create an understanding of what the A.L.F. and E.L.F. are all about and the importance of their existence. What percentage of the general public understands why this underground movement exists and why they choose direct action in attempts to bring about change? Please, do not let the manipulating voice of the mass media be the only one that's heard in helping the general public decide whether they think A.L.F./E.L.F. actions are worthwhile and righteous, or "displaced violence" and "terrorism" as they are called within mainstream media.

So, it doesn't look like any of this repression has hurt the growing movement, or the dedication of its supporters, and it certainly hasn't hurt me nor will it stop me. I stand here in federal custody while I write these words with still four years to go until the end of my prison time and probation, with a burning heart. The same burning heart that lead me to an immense earth and animal consciousness, the same one that would have lead me to the front line on the night in question, the same

On January 28, 2002, in San Jose Federal Court, Petey and myself were handed sentences of 24 and 14 months, respectively, for pleading guilty to one count of possession of unregistered firearms -- incendiary devices. Disregarding the persistent attempts of the assistant US Attorney Scott Frewing to label us as having a terrorizing effect on animal abusers (he was careful not to label us as "terrorists" directly), the judge ordered a lesser sentence than we anticipated from this fascist government. With rise in the public's sympathetic support for the US government's crusade against terrorism, and with new legislation such as the Patriot Act legalizing the feds' unwarranted snooping, taping, recording as admissible in court, it should be of no surprise that animal/earth liberators are increasingly being watched in their scope. A rise in repression can only account for the rising level of resistance in effect.

The slaughter and commodification of non-human animals is made possible by our techno-industrial existence and headed by the U.S. government, and until we recognize the root of the problem and discontinue fruitlessly hacking at the branches, no effective change will be brought about.

KEEP ON RUNNING!

In October of 1997 the ALF released several thousand mink that were imprisoned within five fur farms in South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Iowa.

In September of 1998, a Grand Jury in Madison Wisconsin set up to investigate these raids, indicted two animal liberation campaigners on little factual evidence, charging them with animal enterprise terrorism and unlawful interference with interstate commerce. The indictment alleges that Peter Young and Justin Samuel attacked at least two of the farms. If convicted, they faced a maximum of 82 years in prison for a non violent offense. Despite the indictments, the Attorney's office was lacking two things, their suspects. On the 4th of September

ACCORDING TO THE FUR COMMISSION USA:



Peter Young is allegedly responsible for a number of fur farm raids in 3 states for a total of:
 •\$1.3 million in damages
 •11,101 animals freed

Justin was arrested in Belgium and later exchanged a light prison sentence for full cooperation with the authorities to attempt to implicate Peter. But after Justin's two year prison stint, Peter is still nowhere to be found. In what appears to be the longest an animal rights activist in the US has been on the run, Peter, to the best of our knowledge, has still not been captured. We can only hope he is still out there, running, fighting and staying safe. Keep on running, Peter!

one that keeps me up at night wondering how the earth in all her beauty and wildness got into this state she currently weeps in and what it will take to bring her instead into a state of being where she will flourish and excel, reaping the benefits of strong sentiments that life should be valued over property and love should have no trouble finally conquering hate. With this burning heart growing brighter every day I stand here still stronger than before and growing stronger and more conscious every day, always in hope, and in hope I pray for the earth, animals and their liberated tomorrow now and forever.

Matthew, your words bring me hope, and knowledge of your well being brings me joy, so, I pray this essay when and if you read it will bring you the same hope and joy. I'm yours forever in solidarity. My friend.

-Petey

Matthew Whyte
 #99477-111
 Taft Correctional
 Institution
 PO Box 7001
 Taft, CA 93268

Convicted for possession of incendiary devices to allegedly target dairy trucks



MATT WHYTE

Petey, you take care, buddy, so that our tracks may cross under the rising of the moon.

!! Tierra y Libertad !!

-Matt Whyte

Matt is hoping to be released to a halfway house in December or January.



PETER YOUNG

Justin was arrested in Belgium and later exchanged a light prison sentence for full cooperation with the authorities to attempt to implicate Peter. But after Justin's two year prison stint, Peter is still nowhere to be found. In what appears to be the longest an animal rights activist in the US has been on the run, Peter, to the best of our knowledge, has still not been captured. We can only hope he is still out there, running, fighting and staying safe. Keep on running, Peter!



Over the past 20 years, activists have been able to get inside of the world's most notorious lab, Huntingdon Life Sciences. They would apply for jobs or simply walk in, carry still cameras or hidden video cameras, and capture some of the most damning footage of laboratory abuse that the public has seen.



BREAKING

"The first night we went, we realized that the horrors Michelle Rokke had witnessed in this same room where we stood were as true then as they were in 1997. Several operating tables were covered in evidence of painful dissections, with surgical instruments left, uncleaned, to soak in the pools of blood left on the tables overnight."

The following story was received anonymously by several animal rights organizations over a year ago. Although already published on one international website, the below is the first time in the US this story has been put into print. Dated June 10th, 2001; author unknown.

"On April first, 2001, our lives changed. All of us. It was this weekend that I, along with some very dear comrades, entered Huntingdon Life Sciences, and left with 14 precious friends. In a span of three days, the entire animal liberation movement in the United States was entering a new era, with focused energy, and dramatic success. We were all changing for the better. The grassroots animal rights movement was learning to focus on specific targets, and how to use their strength to gain victories. We, the underground animal liberation movement, were becoming more focused, plugging into the campaigns of the above ground, to inspire them, to give them hope, and to promote tactics that require audacity, even if they are unconventional, while still using uncompromising vigilante rescues as the most effective way to free animals **now**. But of course,

the most important change that weekend was in the lives of 14 beagle puppies, who we lifted from their living graves. It's hard for me to imagine now, these puppies who love sunshine and grass, and romping with each other, back in those steel cages we found them in. And they're never going back.



HE SEEMED TO KNOW... THAT IF HE PATIENTLY RAN, AND KEPT MOVING, HE WOULD NEVER HAVE TO RETURN TO THE IRON CUBE HE HAD BEEN IN...

Huntingdon Life Sciences is a vile little lab, and they've not only tried to hide from the animal rights community, but the nation as a whole. The lab is almost entirely surrounded by woods, which was convenient for us (and the animals inside). We were able to walk around the whole perimeter of the lab unnoticed, and see the filth that passersby can't see from the roadway. The back of HLS is dirtier than a junk collector's lawn in Alabama, with chunks of asphalt breaking apart in what are supposed to be delivery driveways. Rows upon rows, and piles upon piles of empty cages become warped and oxidized from weather exposure. This brought us great joy, that HLS not only couldn't keep animals in these cages anymore, but seemed to have no use for them now, or in the future. Several large buildings in the back were filled with nothing but garbage, leftovers for a one successful scam operation, now exposed into a joke of an enterprise, struggling to give some semblance of survival.

The evening of March thirty-first, we were approaching the lab through the woods behind it. HLS resides in a

town so tiny, they don't even have their own police force, and rely upon the next town over, Franklin Township, to provide them with protection. But no evil can protect themselves from the pure of heart. We put in time and effort until we learned how to outsmart them at their wicked game. There are two bodies of water behind HLS, one being a canal that divides up the police forces of the area. HLS is just within the final reaches of the Franklin Township police force. We knew that



However, on the night of April 1st, activists set out for HLS with the intent to not only leave with video footage, but with animals. They were on a mission, to do what had never been done before, to return successful after -



INTO HELL

police are inherently routine in their work, seldom using any creative skills, and that they wouldn't think outside of their own jurisdiction if they knew that a "crime" was occurring. We therefore entered, and left from outside their jurisdiction. But this required crossing the canal, at times 100 feet wide, and too deep to be able to walk across. Also, we thought that nothing would mask the smell of 14 puppies like fresh flowing water.

We tied a rope to one of the trees along the shore, and sent one of our first people out in the boat to cross the canal. The oars dipping into the water silently created huge ripples that spread to both shores in a matter of seconds. We too, silent, and anonymous, hoped to create huge ripples, showing the world that the use of animals as a vehicle for human greed will no longer be tolerated—We will fight back, and We will win. At the other shore, the rope was tied to another tree. This enabled us to shuttle each other across the canal in a matter of moments. We followed the backwoods trails created by deer, passing the landmarks we had come to know like the back of our hands, the abandoned rusting septic tank, and the section of woods where the bramble grows so thick that it can only be crawled through, always approaching the growing sound of the ventilation fans, which echo through the woods for miles.

Our lookouts were all stationed, it was time to go inside. We used bolt cutters to create emergency exits every few sections of barbed wire fence, in case we needed a quick escape. This wasn't very likely though, since the security force was as threatening and effective as a 95 year-old deaf man. The fence doesn't even touch the ground in many places, leaving sometimes three and four foot gaps to slide under, and the back gate was never locked tight enough to keep us from passing in and out for previous surveillance. Perhaps to the 250 lb security guard, this was safe. We knew the precise timing of the security rounds, and that for the specific employee working that night, we had 6-7 minutes as he completed his rounds, and would return to our entry point. The security patrol was hard to miss, and always gave plenty of notice since the truck used highly visible flashing lights, and drove 5 miles per hour.

When we had initially been searching for the animal storage units, we had been erroneously looking inside the lab. Climbing up the jungle gym of pipes along the back of the main building, we were able to enter the necropsy room through a skylight that wasn't even nailed down. The first night we went, we realized that the horrors Michelle Rokke had witnessed in this same room where we stood were as true then as

they were in 1997. Several operating tables were covered in evidence of painful dissections, with surgical instruments left, uncleaned, to soak in the pools of blood left on the tables overnight.

It was only by following the stench of animals living in close quarters to one another that we were able to find the only animals we saw alive at HLS. All of the sheds in the back have alarmed, deadbolted doors. But they also have ladders that lead straight up to the ventilation shafts of the buildings. We climbed up the ladder and entered the building through the unlocked door only

10 feet above the alarmed deadbolted one. The inside of the lab looked worse than any dusty old attic imaginable. Sheets of plywood created a path crossing over the cave of exposed fiberglass insulation, where tangled wires hung down casually. We tore apart the insulation, and sawed a hole through the ceiling to the floor below, where the animals were. *continued on page 14...*



WE... SAWED A HOLE THROUGH THE CEILING TO THE FLOOR BELOW... THE LOCKED DOOR WAS NO MATCH TO THE CROWBAR THAT POPPED IT OPEN IN SECONDS.





JOHN curtin

*over 20 years later he's still outraged
and still fighting.*

BB: When you got into the animal rights movement did you go straight into direct action?

JC: Just about. I knew I wanted to do something for animals. I was living in Ireland at the time, in 1983, and wanted to come back to England because the Animal Liberation movement was strong, the ALF direct action activism was at its absolute peak probably – things were total mayhem. I had wrote to the ALF Supporters Group before that – to Ronnie Lee to ask what I could do to become involved, something naive like that. I don't think he replied. Because the focus was on direct action, everyone else was already cutting out on the demonstration side of things – so that was fine with me. So yeah – basically straight into direct action.

BB: Did you have any fear or anxiety on your first action?

JC: Yeah – Yeah, we were throwing a big pot of paint over a fur shop, me and this woman. We sort of planned, got to the fur shop, and we just threw the whole thing of paint and it rebounded back onto the both of us. We dropped the can – covered in our fingerprints – and went screaming through the town covered in red paint. We then locked ourselves in this room all night thinking the police were going to barge in at any moment. But then once we began to do it a bit more, then we began to realize how lax the police are really. Definitely how lax the police were in those days anyways.

BB: One of the things you are most famous for is helping to form the Hunt Retribution Squad (HRS) and participating in the action of digging up the Duke of Beaufort's grave. Were the action and the formation of the HRS done more as a publicity stunt or was it intended to send a serious message that a sharper edge was being brought to the anti-hunt movement?

JC: It was both really. At the time we began to play with the media a bit – because they had turned on us by that time anyways. That was around the time we became known as the maniacs of the press. Before then we were the little Robin Hoods, the darlings, the animal rescuers. As arson began to be deployed and we began to cause millions of pounds worth of damage, we started to get called the axe wielding, baby-killing lunatics. So there was a bit of manipulation of the tabloid media and to "give 'em what they want" sort of thing. But there was a serious side to it (HRS), where we definitely did have plans to use violence against hunt people. But that got thwarted by our arrest and it never quite materialized from then. But whether or not it would have happened I don't know, because I don't know if we are violent people. But we did – I remember seriously wanting to go along those lines.

BB: How did you get caught for this action?

JC: It's just totally weird what happened. We never actually did dig the body up. And that is an everlasting story in itself, but we did desecrate the grave. We dug a big six-foot hole. We got within

like an inch of the coffin. We did all that – got back to London – and bam-bam-bam (the story was in the newspapers).

Basically our weak point was that somebody's mother knew where this safe house was, and this mother had a hunch-and only a hunch-that her son was involved. She actually went to the police with this information, saying her son was involved in animal rights. All the quirks, circumstances, and coincidences just converged and that was like an Aladdin's key for the police.

BB: Was this your first time in prison and how much time did you get?

JC: Well at that point I was already on bail for raiding laboratories. I got two years for the HRS action and nine months for something else. It was my first time in prison.

BB: Did you have a hard time adjusting to prison life this first time?

JC: I remember the first night, it was very scary. They put us in the worst possible cell in the whole prison, the coldest cell in the prison. My nose bled – I'll never forget that. I don't know whether it had to do with nerves or what. Even though I consider myself an anarchist and I knew it was coming, I'd still read all the books and had seen the TV programs about the beating up and rapes – but my god, nothing could have been further from the truth. Once I sort of realized what prison was about, all the fear went away you know. And I realized the reason why most people who go into prison end up going back, because it's not that bad. It is bearable, 99 out of 100 people could face it and do it.

BB: That was not your last time in prison. What else have you been in prison for?

JC: Let's see: the grave digging, the raid on Wickham Laboratories – nine months, 12 months for violent disorder for smashing up the house of someone who killed Mike Hill (the hunt saboteur) and 18 months for taking 82 beagles and 26 rabbits from Interfauna.

BB: Can you tell us about the preparations you have to make to raid a lab animal breeder like Interfauna? That it is not something you simply do on a whim.

USE YOUR BRAIN. IT WON'T COME NATURAL TO YOU, BUT

THINK LIKE A
CRIMINAL



ALF
+RIKI
AGAIN

JC: Yeah – we took in definitely weeks, if not months, of surveillance for the raid. It involves a lot of sitting out in the dead of night in the wind, rain, sitting in the side of a hedge just watching, waiting. That is a large part of all the raids I've ever known of – the surveillance before hand. You really want to know the run of the place, you want to know what time the staff come in, what time do the rotators change, what time does the day staff change, when does the security make their rounds – and you want to know all of this like the back of your hand. That involves just sitting there, and getting wet and getting cold.

You've got the logistics really, the weeks and weeks and weeks of watching, then getting the people together, picking the day, its like... I imagine robbing a bank, which would take a lot of work, and because you're dealing with animals there could even be more problems. So for the few hours it takes to do the raid... it takes many, many weeks of 24/7 concentration on it in order for it to go well. There may be times when you could do something spur of the moment, but you don't want to rush into that intentionally. I would always want to know my enemy before I went there.

BB: Despite all your preparations for the Interfauna raid, you were still caught and it was in an unusual way, wasn't it?

JC: Yeah, it was the beginning of the police putting all their resources into catching us. On the van I hired (rented)... I still to this day am not quite sure how they got that van, but the police somehow got a hold of the van, and in the under carriage of it they managed to find a piece of wheat that had a fungus on it. It is was very, very rare and they managed to... one of the fields the van was driven through (by Interfauna) the wheat in that field had that rare fungus, and they managed to match it up. So they put the amount of resources in for taking these dogs as they would for a murder inquiry. Eventually 6 police forces were involved and there was a surveillance operation at one point involving 120 police officers, which is bizarre when you think about it. You know, you're dealing only with the theft of some dogs.

sort of galvanizing you into action. Their deaths just symbolized all the injustice, all the tragedies – it took on, and became a real symbol to keep you going. When times get tough you remember that. The death of Barry to... To me the death of Barry happened when he was on his hunger strike. When he was on his 68th day of the hunger strike. Barry's death to me happened then. It actually happened two years later, and it numbed me actually when I found out. It made me very, very sad. But the important thing about Barry's hunger strike is not the actual time that he died or anything, it was the actual amount of action happening on his hunger strikes. There was so much action going on when Barry was on his hunger strike, so again it's that galvanizing kick in the ass basically to remind you to know where you're at to put other things into perspective. You know, you're a bit tired, you're a bit knackered, you think my God, you know, these people, these friends of mine have died for this - so I don't have a right to be whining and moaning because my feet are cold, or something.

BB: Direct action extends well beyond just donning a mask as an ALF activist. It can also be done right out in the open. You were a part of two very famous protest campaigns in the last 5 years. Can you tell us about the Coventry Airport campaign and the protest camps at Huntingdon Life Sciences?

JC: Ok. The Coventry airport, all I can say about it is that it is a fantastic example of people power. The authorities did everything they could to allow live exports to continue, but there was just a massive resounding NO! Within six weeks of Jill's death (Jill, another activist, was run over at the protest) we had stopped it. And it wasn't just animal liberation people that did it. It was people from the community. They were just as involved as the others standing side by side. They were local neighbors, standing side by side with animal liberation activists. It was just a big resounding NO from everybody and it shows you what you can do when you put your mind to it.

The Huntingdon protest was fantastic. It ended up basically as a



**I THINK SOMEONE THAT IS FUELED WITH ANGER AND HATRED,
MAKES A BLOODY GOOD ACTIVIST.**

BB: As a frequent ALF prisoner did you get enough support from the animal rights movement? How did this affect your prison stay?

JC: The two are inseparable, really. Enormous amount of support, which was sometimes an embarrassing amount of support. When it got near Christmas the screws would actually give you your letters in piles and piles. I would have been shocked; you're more shocked when you don't get a letter. You really get an enormous amount of support. And it doesn't matter what these say – just the fact that there are people out there thinking about you. That is just what keeps you going, you know. It's what, to some degree, if you're getting a hassle in prison – it's that level of support that protects you, because people know you are not isolated, you're not vulnerable.

BB: You have known most of the activists that have been killed in the fight for animal liberation, like Barry Horne, Jill Phipps, Tom Worby, and Mike Hill. What effect did these deaths have on you as an animal liberation activist and how do you think they affected the movement?

JC: Jill's death, and Mike Hill's death, and Tom Worby's death were really just

practical joke on Huntingdon with them having to pay a 200,000-pound bill. They thought we would just move on to another little camp. But we had done quite a lot of planning. When it came to the eviction, there was a woman locked down this tunnel in this big massive six-foot safe. We got three consecutive evenings live on television on the local TV station. And we had everyone on our side. Huntingdon had to pick up the 200,000-pound bill. When they evicted us we moved on to a piece of land behind Huntingdon and Huntingdon actually bought the piece of land especially to evict us. Probably the only piece of land that had been bought specifically to evict someone off it. It was very bizarre.

BB: In the last couple years there has been an increase in the number of ALF actions and direct action attacks on targets of grassroots campaigns like Shamrock, Hill Grove, and Huntingdon Life Sciences (to name a few). Do you see this relationship between an aboveground well-strategized campaign and underground activity as how the ALF is evolving?

JC: I suppose I'm one of a network who had my battle line drawn, you know. I think I'm a bit old fashioned in my ALF sort of mind
continued on page 14...



BARRY HORNE

igniting the revolution.



The following article is written from the point of view of those closest to Barry Horne during the hunger strike protest. From the planning stage before Barry was jailed, to the organization of the publicity and the action campaign, to talks with government officials from the Home Office, to meetings held in prisons and hospitals as Barry lay close to death. It's now almost a year since the tragic news from the high security Long Lartin prison that Barry Horne had died in the prison hospital. He was serving 18 years for arson against the property of animal abusers, and it was a fitting irony that he left this world on 5th November, Bonfire Night, or Fireworks Night.

In prison he had undertaken a series of hunger strikes against government support for and funding of vivisection. One hunger strike lasted 68 days, from which he never fully recovered, and which eventually contributed to his death. His hunger strikes generated massive publicity, and were directly responsible for a huge upsurge in activism across the world.

What many people may not know is that plans for a hunger strike campaign were discussed over a year before Barry was arrested and imprisoned for what would be his last time. And far from being a haphazard and emotional protest, the hunger strikes were a clearly thought-out campaign, with a strategy, clear in its aims, yet flexible to allow for the unexpected.



barry at home

It was 1995, Barry had "gone underground," living anonymously at a series of rented addresses in towns in southern England. He wasn't on the run as such, but he had already been arrested and questioned in connection with the Isle of Wight arsons, in which a number of targets had burned down and millions of pounds damage caused. He had been released without charge. We visited Barry at his rented flat and stayed over night, discussing the movement and future tactics.

He felt the police were still trying to pin the Isle of Wight attacks on him, and talk moved on to the possibility of his getting a prison sentence even longer than the 14 years Keith Mann had received. He said that if the government gave him a long sentence, he would go on hunger strike to

force the government to stop supporting and funding vivisection. He accepted that it was possible they would let him die, but he insisted his death would then be used in the long term to help bring about an end to animal experiments.

It would be important to follow a strategy. The focus of hunger strike would be to inspire the movement, creating anger and provoking action. Politically he would not be demanding a ban on vivisection, only that the government stops using taxes to fund experiments on the one hand, and imprison opponents on the other. If they let him die, the political process will be shown to be a waste of time, at least as far as this government is concerned.

The following day we left Barry to his solitary life, and talk of the hunger strike was put to the back of our minds.

It was over a year later that news broke of a man in his 40's caught planting incendiary devices in a Bristol shopping centre. Barry was also eventually charged with the Isle of Wight attacks, and it was clear he was facing a very big prison sentence. Our minds went back to the hunger strike discussions, while Barry bided his time.

Several months into his prison remand time, Barry passed out the message, and we began to prepare for the hunger strike. The events which took place during the hunger strike have been well documented elsewhere. As Barry hoped, his actions sparked off a huge upsurge in activity and anger in the movement. Meanwhile thousands of letters, phone calls and emails kept up pressure on the government.

A general election was approaching, which Labour looked certain to win. Several Labour officials wrote to the campaign, pointing out their pre-election promises, including many reforms on vivisection. This was relayed to Barry in Bristol Prison, and after 35 days he postponed the hunger strike. He had achieved one of the aims; the movement had been inspired into mass radical action, and the vivisectionists had been rattled.

At the end of the year, with Barry just about recovered, and Labour about 6 months into office, Barry was sentenced to 18 years in prison. If the 18 year sentence was not evidence enough of Labour's intentions, it soon became obvious that they had no intention of honoring their pre-election promises. Barry let us know that he would resume the hunger strike, this time in protest at New Labour's failure to honor their pre-election pledges on animal experiments.

As the weeks went by, a campaign mail-out, a website and an email list kept the movement informed on a regular basis. As the hunger strike passed the 6 week mark, the scale of action reached fever pitch, with riots outside breeders and laboratories, daylight raids and rescues in full view of the often helpless police.

While the press completely ignored these events, the government was under pressure, deluged with letters, phone calls and



emails. We eventually got a call from Lord Williams, then a Home Office minister, offering talks with Home Office officials to discuss Barry's demands.

We arrived at the meeting with a long list of issues for discussion. As we sat down with the government officials, we produced a tape recorder, which we insisted we needed to allow Barry to hear the answers for himself. The meeting lasted 2 hours, and we could see that they resented our very presence. Although they were senior civil servants, they seemed well briefed by their political masters. As we put our questions to them, they replied in monotone statements, basically insisting the government was committed to animal welfare, but refusing to detail any specific timetable for action.

Even so, they urged us to continue dialogue, and allow the government time. Of course by this time Barry had postponed the hunger strike, but he was given the recording of the meeting, and as he slowly began his recovery, he started to take in the events and to evaluate the outcome.

After several months, Barry more or less recovered, though he had suffered irreparable eyesight damage. It didn't take him long to conclude that the government intended to renege on its promises. Worse still, they were starting to appear pro-vivisection. They made a big fuss of ending a few hundred cosmetic tests, but the overall total had risen, for the first time in years, by tens of thousands. Barry let us know he would resume the hunger strike.

Into the 7th week, it was longer than the previous hunger strike. Though seriously ill physically, he seemed mentally fit and determined to continue. The demos began to get bigger and angrier, but again the media studiously ignored it all.

Things started to change as the hunger strike moved into the eighth week, and Barry's health deteriorated significantly. The prison publicly acknowledged he was in danger. The press began to take notice. We were getting calls from local and then national papers, radio and TV, and eventually from reporters around the world. A permanent

and he was in serious danger. We held a meeting with Barry in the prison hospital, and we tried to give as fair an account as possible of the Home Office talks. It was a difficult meeting, Barry was a friend, and seeing him like this was heartbreaking. At the same time we could not lie to him at this stage. At one point he asked us one by one whether there was enough to call off the protest. None of us could give a definite answer either way, it was up to Barry, and his mental powers were quickly declining.

Now that the world's media were watching, and the movement had been stirred up as never before, the protest had achieved some of its aims. Barry agreed to distill the earlier demands and seek a compromise. The new demand was simply for the government to honor its pledge to set up a Royal Commission on animal experiments. To many in the media and the public, this was reasonable, and we seemed to be winning the publicity battle.

The government refused, and Barry was determined to see the hunger strike through. As his health worsened even further, he was transferred to York General Hospital, guarded by prison officers. At this the media went crazy. Some nights it was the lead item on national TV news, and often the headlines in the national press. We held meetings each day in his hospital ward, as the permanent vigil transferred to outside the hospital. Literally dozens of reporters, TV and press cameras from around the world surrounded us during press conferences as we left or arrived for the meetings.

Some media commentators urged the government to compromise. Under pressure, the government sent detailed documents numbering several pages, outlining allegedly new proposals. Barry was having difficulty concentrating on details, and was hardly able to read, so poor was his eyesight by this stage. He decided to take orange juice and sugared tea in order to be able to take in the documents. After 2 days he dismissed the proposals as nothing, and went back to water only.

Just before the last meeting, a fax arrived at the hospital from Kerry Pollard MP, purporting to be a new government proposal. This was not a Royal Commission, but a parliamentary committee of enquiry, comprising politicians, and pro and anti-vivisection interests. Barry said he would think about it overnight.

That night however, the authorities decided to take matters into their own hands. Close to death and disoriented, Barry was taken from his hospital bed and transferred back to prison, unknown to any of his supporters. What happened next can only be guessed at, but it was clear to us that Barry was never the same again following this move. Back in prison he was so confused that at one point he asked to see his mother who had died months earlier.

Barry called off the protest. Barry had achieved the goal of stirring up the movement, and accepted the parliamentary committee as a poor substitute for a Royal Commission on page 14...



barry's final resting place

vigil was set up outside Full Sutton Prison near York, which attracted much publicity.

Once again the government got in touch, and more talks were arranged. This time, Barry decided to continue the hunger strike until the government acted. The talks at the Home Office had much more of an urgency about them, against a backdrop of an activist dying in a Home Office-run prison. The irony wasn't lost on us or Barry.

After another 2 hour meeting, they offered us nothing but empty hints of reform, such as a few more inspectors and a reformed Animal Procedures Committee. They seemed worried though. They stressed the need for "continued dialogue". They were desperate to know if we would ask Barry to call off the hunger strike. All we could do was to take the recording of the meeting to Barry, for him to make up his own mind.

Truth was, time was running out. It was now almost 60 days



J O H N C U R T I N

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set. (Meaning) that the clandestine stuff would be done clandestinely and that's where there would be interaction with the police, but you could demonstrate and do all of your campaigns, and the police would never bother you. All that has changed now and I've always said that the two don't really mix--direct action and protesting--but I'm obviously wrong because there is a time and a place for everything. But I would still give people the advice that if you are going to break the law, then don't do it out in the open unless you managed to find quite a number of people to do it with you. So then it becomes some sort of civil disobedience thing where you're much harder to control than the police can handle, which happened with Hill Grove and Consort and we basically just had riots. You know, full-blown riots.

BB: What actions have inspired you recently or, in your opinion, stand out for efficacy or cleverness?

Due to a concern from John, this portion of the article has been removed. We apologize and regret the impact this redaction has on the completeness of our archive.

And also animal liberation, every time I hear of the littlest smallest little things... I'm an old softy, really. To me animal liberation can be achieved in a simple act of nicking a dog that's been abused out of a shed or battery units. That's what I really, really love to hear. Maybe the other things are more effective—but that's just what I just jump for joy every time I hear it.

BB: As a convicted ALF activist and as someone that is very well spoken, you have appeared in interviews, on TV programs, on the radio, and at speaking events across the country. What role do you find yourself playing in the animal rights movement at the moment and where do you see yourself going?

JC: I'm into this movement until I die. But what form that will take—I don't know, and I don't care what for its going to take really. I would dearly love to not be so well known to the police; and once you are well known to the police, you have to be very careful. The important thing is that I ended up doing something. Either sanctuary work, doing a stall, whatever. It's all really the same.

BB: Do you have any advice you would give to any new animal liberationists or people coming into the animal rights movement on the direct action side?

JC: Use your brain. It won't come natural to you, but think like a criminal. Use your brain and work with people who you trust. Not strangers you might meet once at a demonstration. You would be mad to go and do something seriously illegal with them. An ALF cell is a bunch of good friends really. So look after your friends. When you can find one that you can trust your life with—treat them like gold dust.

BB: What fuels you? What keeps you going?

JC: Well I think love and compassion obviously, and empathy with animals. I think what did for many, many years was anger and hatred towards animal abusers. I think someone that is fueled with anger and hatred, makes a bloody good activist. There has been a natural process within me where a lot of the hatred, the anger towards animal abusers is definitely subsided, but that's not to say that I don't believe in all the forms of direct action. I always have supported economic sabotage, and even acts of violence. So what gives me energy now is that original love and compassion. And to me anger can blind you—make a bloody good activist but it's got its own danger within it. So when you do get involved with animal liberation, you got to observe what's happening to yourself.

BREAKING INTO HELL

continued from pg 9...

The locked door was no match to the crowbar that popped it open in seconds.

When we entered the beagle unit, it was eerily silent. The dogs, upon seeing us, made no noise. Through the darkness, we could see the shining black of the puppies' eyes peering at us with a mixture of curiosity, and the intense fear of humans. We had waited so long for this moment. We ran from cage to cage, and flung open all the doors at once. As they saw the first puppy do it, all the others began to understand that they could get up and leave their prison with the slatted steel floor. The puppies ran all over the unit, exercising their new found freedom to run, jump, and interact with one another. Those who were small enough went into carriers, and for some of the larger dogs we affixed harnesses fashioned of rope, to guide them to liberation. We cleared the unit, and took every living animal we found out with us.

I took two dogs out with me, both the largest dog, and the smallest puppy of the lot. As we ran along a grassy trail created by powerlines, the puppy was a ball of energy, and the older dog trotted along at a pace worthy of a Sunday walk. But before we were halfway out, the puppy was getting restless, and he

began to cry. The three of us stopped for a moment, and the little one kept jumping up to sniff me as I scratched behind his ears. I pulled him up into my arms, and he began to lick my face through the fabric of my mask. "I understand Little One, you're tired... You're just a baby here, fleeing for your life..." It was at this time that I appreciated the steady pace of the older dog. He seemed to know and understand that if he patiently ran, and kept moving, he would never have to return to the iron cube he had been in for what was most likely years.

The three of us crossed the canal, and knew that we were going to be safe. We were the last ones to meet up with the rest of the group, and as I loaded my new friends up for transportation, all that was visible was a sea of wagging brown and white tails, and bobbing puppies jumping all over, relishing the feeling of contact and play. Although we all moved with a stealthy silence, there was an intense feeling of celebration. The beginnings of dawn were lightening the sky to a dark blue-gray, and it was going to rain soon. Within hours, our footprints would be washed away in the mud, and the dogs would be hours away, on the long, well-deserved journey to their new lives. The coldness of winter was finally ending, and the sharp spring green glowing with new life could be seen through the darkness. It was a beautiful morning, and it was a brand new day for the animals."

BARRY HORNE

igniting the revolution

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Commission. But in fact he was so confused that he was now having difficulty making any rational decisions. As soon as he began eating again, the authorities immediately moved Barry back to the hospital. But physically and mentally, he would never recover. Some surmised that something sinister had happened between the hospital and the prison, but it will probably never be known either way. At the very least, moving such a dangerously ill person from hospital to prison was a vindictive and evil act which contributed to Barry's permanent damage, and his eventual death.

Those who watched the aftermath of the hunger strike can attest to the gruelling agony Barry suffered in the following weeks, as his body tried desperately to recover. Despite his obvious poor health, this vengeful pro-vivisection government kept Barry a top security category "A" prisoner, so most of his friends couldn't visit at a time when he most needed us.

We owe it to Barry and the animals to keep alive, in the years to come, the memory of what he achieved, to inspire future activists, including those not yet even born.



THERE ISN'T A WRONG
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THE ANIMAL
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BITE BACK

222 Lakeview Ave
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West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Bite Back is an all volunteer magazine and organization. We will continue to distribute the magazine at no cost across the country as long as the interest and support is there. It is our intention to not only distribute news, information and stories to prisoners and supporters, but also assist those in prison with financial commissary support, help finance legal assistance and whatever we can do to aid those behind bars for direct action on behalf of the animals. Help us help those who have attacked animal abuse head on, directly and without compromise.

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BITE BACK FALL 2002



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